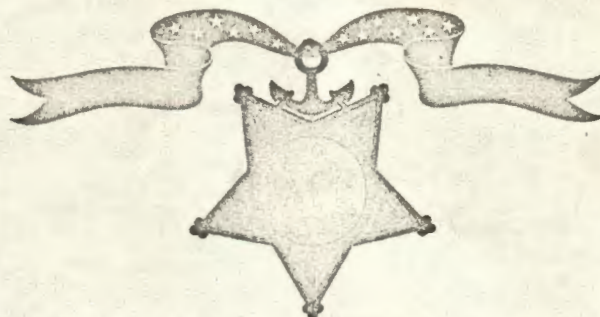


MC GONAGLE, William L.
Captain
United States Navy



The President of the United States in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. MC GONAGLE
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

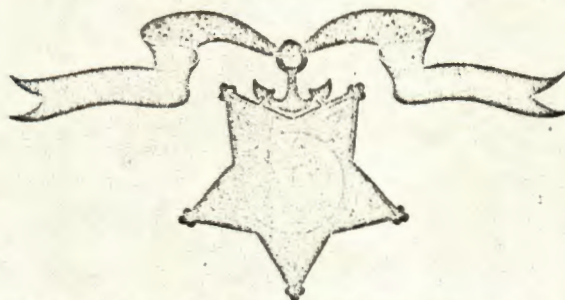
CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean on 8-9 June 1967. Sailing in international waters, the LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats which inflicted many casualties among the crew and caused extreme damage to the ship. Although severely wounded during the first air attack, Captain (then Commander) McGonagle remained at his battle station on the badly damaged bridge and, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his wounds, subordinated his own welfare to the safety and survival of his command. Steadfastly refusing any treatment which would take him away from his post, he calmly continued to exercise firm command of his ship. Despite continuous exposure to fire, he maneuvered his ship, directed its defense, supervised the control of flooding and fire, and saw to the care of the casualties. Captain McGonagle's extraordinary valor under these conditions inspired the surviving members of the LIBERTY's crew, many of them seriously wounded, to heroic efforts to overcome the battle damage and keep the ship afloat. Subsequent to the attack, although in great pain and weak from the loss of blood, Captain McGonagle remained at his battle station and continued to conn his ship for more than seventeen hours. It was only after rendezvous with a United States destroyer that he relinquished personal control of the LIBERTY and permitted himself to be removed from the bridge. Even then, he refused much needed medical attention until convinced that the seriously wounded among his crew had been treated. Captain McGonagle's superb professionalism, courageous fighting spirit, and valiant leadership saved his ship and many lives. His actions sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

COPY TO: CITATION FILES
PERS 16 (4)
ALL HANDS

Ref: Presented by sec Nav Ignatius during
ceremony at Washington Navy Yard on
11 June 1968.

Finish File Pers-G25



The President of the United States in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. MC GONAGLE
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

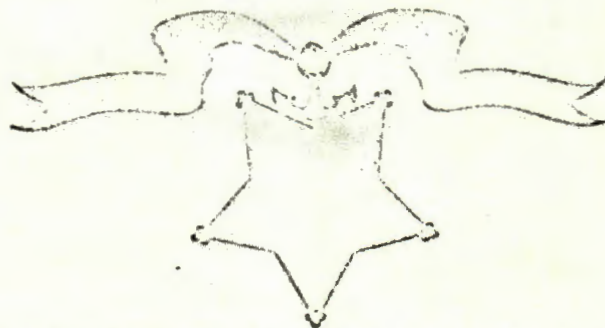
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean on 8-9 June 1967. Sailing in international waters, the LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats which inflicted many casualties among the crew and caused extreme damage to the ship. Although severely wounded during the first air attack, Captain (then Commander) McGonagle remained at his battle station on the badly damaged bridge and, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his wounds, subordinated his own welfare to the safety and survival of his command. Steadfastly refusing any treatment which would take him away from his post, he calmly continued to exercise firm command of his ship. Despite continuous exposure to fire, he maneuvered his ship, directed its defense, supervised the control of flooding and fire, and saw to the care of the casualties. Captain McGonagle's extraordinary valor under these conditions inspired the surviving members of the LIBERTY's crew, many of them seriously wounded, to heroic efforts to overcome the battle damage and keep the ship afloat. Subsequent to the attack, although in great pain and weak from the loss of blood, Captain McGonagle remained at his battle station and continued to conn his ship for more than seventeen hours. It was only after rendezvous with a United States destroyer that he relinquished personal control of the LIBERTY and permitted himself to be removed from the bridge. Even then, he refused much needed medical attention until convinced that the seriously wounded among his crew had been treated. Captain McGonagle's superb professionalism, courageous fighting spirit, and valiant leadership saved his ship and many lives. His actions sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

COPY TO: CITATION FILES

PERS 16 (4)
ALL HANDS

Ref: Presented by sec Nav Ignatius during
ceremony at Washington Navy Yard on
11 June 1968.

*Recommended for Medal of Honor by
CINUSNAVEUR Rtr-sec 0605/1 of
25 Sept 1967 (copy of case in Bd
classified files)*



: The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. MC GONAGLE
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean on 8-9 June 1967. Sailing in international waters, the LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats which inflicted many casualties among the crew and caused extreme damage to the ship. Although severely wounded during the first air attack, Captain (then Commander) McGonagle remained at his battle station on the badly damaged bridge and, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his wounds, subordinated his own welfare to the safety and survival of his command. Steadfastly refusing any treatment which would take him away from his post, he calmly continued to exercise firm command of his ship. Despite continuous exposure to fire, he maneuvered his ship, directed its defense, supervised the control of flooding and fire, and saw to the care of the casualties. Captain McGonagle's extraordinary valor under these conditions inspired the surviving members of the LIBERTY's crew, many of them seriously wounded, to heroic efforts to overcome the battle damage and keep the ship afloat. Subsequent to the attack, although in great pain and weak from the loss of blood, Captain McGonagle remained at his battle station and continued to conn his ship for more than seventeen hours. It was only after rendezvous with a United States destroyer that he relinquished personal control of the LIBERTY and permitted himself to be removed from the bridge. Even then, he refused much needed medical attention until convinced that the seriously wounded among his crew had been treated. Captain McGonagle's superb professionalism, courageous fighting spirit, and valiant leadership saved his ship and many lives. His actions sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. MC GONAGLE
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean on 8-9 June 1967. Sailing in international waters, the LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats which inflicted many casualties among the crew and caused extreme damage to the ship. Although severely wounded during the first air attack, Captain (then Commander) McGonagle remained at his battle station on the badly damaged bridge and, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his wounds, subordinated his own welfare to the safety and survival of his command. Steadfastly refusing any treatment which would take him away from his post, he calmly continued to exercise firm command of his ship. Despite continuous exposure to fire, he maneuvered his ship, directed its defense, supervised the control of flooding and fire, and saw to the care of the casualties. Captain McGonagle's extraordinary valor under these conditions inspired the surviving members of the LIBERTY's crew, many of them seriously wounded, to heroic efforts to overcome the battle damage and keep the ship afloat. Subsequent to the attack, although in great pain and weak from the loss of blood, Captain McGonagle remained at his battle station and continued to command his ship for more than seventeen hours. It was only after rendezvous with a United States destroyer that he relinquished personal control of the LIBERTY and permitted himself to be removed from the bridge. Even then, he refused much needed medical attention until convinced that the seriously wounded among his crew had been treated. Captain McGonagle's superb professionalism, courageous fighting spirit, and valiant leadership saved his ship and many lives. His actions sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

29 MAY 1968

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09
AP-098

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND NAVAL AIDE
TO THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

Subj: Presentation of the Medal of Honor

1. The President has approved the award of the Medal of Honor to Captain William L. McGonagle, USN, and as requested by the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy will make the presentation.
2. The dates 11, 19, or 26 June, on which the presentation would be made, have been submitted to OSD for clearance. However, clearance has not been received to date. Because of the proximity of these dates, we should commence planning for this presentation.
3. In accordance with past practices for Medal of Honor presentations, it is requested that the necessary actions be accomplished on the following:
 - a. Development of a schedule of events for the ceremony. The Chief of Naval Operations is invited to read the citation as part of the ceremony.
 - b. Preparation of recommended guest list.
 - c. Preparation for signature by the Secretary of the Navy of invitations to government sponsored guests, members of Congress and other distinguished guests as appropriate.
 - d. Preparation of remarks to be delivered by the Secretary of the Navy.

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e. Preparation of a press kit. (Public announcement of this presentation will not be made without OSD(PA) clearance.)

f. Preparation of itinerary for government sponsored guests.

4. Each of the above actions should be coordinated or cleared with this office as appropriate.

Very respectfully,



H. E. SPIELMAN
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Special Assistant and
Marine Corps Aide to
The Secretary of the Navy

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PROPOSED REMARKS BY
HONORABLE PAUL R. IGNATIUS
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
PRESENTATION OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO
CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. McGONAGLE, U.S. NAVY
TUESDAY, 11 JUNE 1968

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am pleased to have you join me today for the presentation of the nation's highest award for heroism to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary gallantry in carrying out his responsibilities of command.

Captain McGonagle was the Commanding Officer of the technical research ship USS LIBERTY, which on 8 June 1967 was attacked in international waters in the Eastern Mediterranean. Although severely wounded as a result of the first of several attacks by jet fighters, Captain McGonagle remained at his battle station on the badly damaged bridge, resisting medical attention until convinced that other or more seriously wounded among his crew had been treated and that his command would survive. Although weak from the loss of blood and in great pain, Captain McGonagle remained on the bridge for 17 hours in order to conn his ship. He was there through follow-on air attacks and a torpedo attack by motor torpedo boats. He directed the maneuvering and defense of his ship and the control of fires and flooding that occurred, as well as the prompt and effective care of wounded. Captain McGonagle was responsible for saving the lives of many of his crew and for saving his ship.

Pers-G251-MB/pv
14 December 1967
Document #16

Arnold C. Preziotti
918 - F. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Contract N00171-68-M-0008, it is requested that engraving of the enclosed Medal of Honor and the plaque for the Medal of Honor Case be accomplished as specified on the attached sheet.

	<u>Characters</u>	<u>Cost per Character</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Medal (engraving)	123	\$0.05	\$6.25
Plaque (engraving)	40	0.05	2.00
Plaque			2.25
			<hr/> \$10.50

Engraving of the medal and plaque is to be expedited in order that presentation can be made at the earliest practicable date. Please return the medal and plaque in the envelope addressed to the Chief of Naval Personnel (Attn: Pers-G25).

By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel:

Sincerely yours,

M. H. BARNES
Assistant Head
Decorations and Medals Branch
Personal Affairs Division

Copy to:
Pers-Ea
Pers-H1313

Medal of Honor

**William L. McGonagle
Captain
United States Navy
as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY
(AGTR-5) for action above and beyond
the call of duty on 8 June 1967**

Plaque

**William L. McGonagle
Captain
United States Navy**

The plaque should be $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in length and $7/8$ " in width. It should be centered just under the words, "Medal of Honor," evenly spaced from left to right and firmly attached.



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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

JCSM-655-67

24 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subject: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed the attached recommendation for the award of the Medal of Honor in the case of Commander William L. McGonagle, USN, and recommend approval.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

EARLE G. WHEELER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

SECNAV
NDBDM/GJM/pam
Ser: 1853

24 NOV 1969

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Javits:

This is in response to your inquiry of 29 October 1969, on behalf of Michael B. CIRCUS, which was referred to this office for reply.

Mr. CIRCUS correctly states the essential portion of the law authorizing the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor. The Department of the Navy construed condition (2) of the law (while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force) to be broad enough to cover the USS LIBERTY incident. The Secretary of the Navy, therefore, recommended to the Secretary of Defense that the award of the Medal of Honor to Captain MC GONGLE be approved. No special legislation was passed for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. R. Brown, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

S. R. BROWN, Jr.
Rear Admiral, USN (Retired)

Senior Member, Navy Department
Board of Decorations and Medals
Washington, D. C. 20370

Encl

11 JUL 1968

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: CAPT William L. Mc GONAGLE, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer
USS KILAUE (AE-26)
General Dynamics
97 East Howard Street
Quincy, Massachusetts 02619

Subj: "Certificate of Enrollment of the Medal of Honor Roll"
(DD Form 1370N); transmittal of

Ref: (a) Your application of 23 May 68

Encl: (1) Subject certificate

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in response to reference (a).
2. Your application and a copy of enclosure (1), which certifies your entitlement to the special pension, have been forwarded to the Veterans Administration Central Office, Index Section (Code 034A), Washington, D. C. 20420.
3. You no doubt will be receiving a communication from the Veterans Administration in the near future.

H. L. JENKINS
By direction

Pers-G25-MB/wlc

11 JUL 1968

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: Veterans Administration
Central Office, Index Section (Code 034A)
Washington, D. C. 20420

Subj: Application for enrollment of Medal of Honor Roll and
entitlement to the \$100 pension in the case of CAPT
William L. Mc GONAGLE, USN, 595567/1100

Ref: (a) Public Law 89-311

Encl: (1) Copy of DD Form 1369
(2) Copy of DD Form 1370N
(3) Copy of BuPers ltr *Pers-G25-MB/wlc*

1. Enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded for appropriate action.

H. L. JENKINS
By direction

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Pers

Pers-G25-MB/kc

DATE: JUN 3 1968

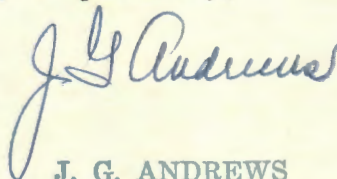
FROM : Pers-G

SUBJECT: Medal of Honor; Awarded to Captain William L. MC GONAGLE, USN

Encl : (1) Copy of Citation

1. Arrangements are now being made for presentation of the Medal of Honor awarded to Captain McGonagle for action shown in enclosure (1). The presentation will be made by the Secretary of the Navy at the Washington Navy Yard 1130, 11 June 1968.

Very respectfully,



J. G. ANDREWS
Assistant Chief for Morale Services



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. MCGONAGLE, UNITED STATES NAVY

William Loren McGonagle was born in Wichita, Kansas, on November 19, 1925. He attended Coachella Valley (California) Union High School, prior to entering the University of Redlands, Redlands, California, where he was a member of the V-12 Program. In October 1945 he transferred to the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in June 1947. While there he was a member of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit and upon graduation was commissioned Ensign. He subsequently advanced in rank, attaining that of Captain, to date from October 2, 1967.

In July 1947 he joined the USS FRANK KNOX (DDR-742), and from April to June 1950 had duty as Assistant Engineering Officer in the USS PARTRIDGE (AMS-31). He then joined the USS KITE (AMS-22), in which he served as Executive Officer, Engineering Officer, and Gunnery Officer. While on board that minesweeper, he participated in combat minesweeping patrols in Korean waters and is entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the KITE.

Detached from the KITE in August 1951, he attended the Electronics Material Officers' Course at the U. S. Naval School (Electronics), Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. In January 1952 he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Advanced Base, Bremerhaven, Germany, as Weser River Patrol Engineering Officer. In addition, he was Officer in Charge of the "M" boats-six German built and manned minesweepers and the "R" boats-twelve German built and manned motor minesweepers. These minesweepers were engaged in clearing and check sweeping in the Baltic and North Sea for mines planted in World War II to open commercial sea lanes and destroy hazards to navigation.

From August 1953 to December 1954 he was Personnel Officer and Administrative Assistant at the U. S. Naval Communication Station, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in January 1955 joined the USS ROCHESTER (CA-124), in which he served as First Lieutenant, Officer of the Deck Underway, and Command Duty Officer. In February 1957 he assumed command of the USS MATACO (ATF-86).

In January 1959 he was assigned to the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit at the University of Idaho at Moscow, as an Instructor in Naval Weapons Operations and Tactics, and Naval Leadership. While in that assignment he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from that University. From July 1961 to September 1963 he commanded the USS RECLAIMER (ARS-42), then joined the Staff of Commander Service Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet as Current Operations Officer. In April 1966 he assumed command of the USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5). He was in command of the LIBERTY when she was attacked and damaged by Israeli planes and patrol craft off Egypt's Sinai Peninsula in June 1967. He was awarded the Medal of Honor and cited as follows:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) in the Eastern Mediterranean on June 8-9, 1967. Sailing in international waters, the LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats which inflicted many casualties among the crew and caused extreme damage to the ship. Although severely wounded during the first air attack, (he) remained at his battle station on the badly damaged bridge and, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his wounds, subordinated his own welfare to the safety and survival of his command. Steadfastly refusing any treatment which would take him away from his post, he calmly continued to exercise firm command of his ship. Despite continuous exposure to fire, he maneuvered his ship, directed its defense, supervised the control of flooding and fire, and saw to the care of the casualties. (His) extraordinary valor under these conditions inspired the surviving members of the LIBERTY's crew, many of them seriously wounded, to heroic effects to overcome the battle damage and keep the ship afloat. Subsequent to the attack, although in great pain and weak from the loss of blood, (he) remained at his battle station and continued to command his ship for more than seventeen hours. It was only after rendezvous with a United States destroyer that he relinquished personal control of the LIBERTY and permitted himself to be removed from the bridge. Even then, he refused much needed medical attention until convinced that the seriously wounded among his crew had been treated..."

He was also awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received during this action.

In November 1967 he reported as Prospective Commanding Officer of the USS KILAUEA (AE-26), building at the General Dynamics Corporation, Quincy Division, Quincy, Massachusetts.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Captain McGonagle has the American Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Europe and Asia Clasps; China Service Medal (extended); National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; Korean Service Medal with one silver star and one bronze star (six operations); United Nations Service Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Taiwan). He is also entitled to the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation Badge.

He is married to the former E. Jean Stoneham of Glendale, California, and they have three children, Cindy Lou, Sandra Sue, and William Loren McGonagle, Jr. His official home address is Coachella, California.

NAVY - Office of Information
Internal Relations Division (OI-430)
11 June 1968

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Captain William Loren Mc Gonagle, USN, 494467/1100

Date of birth: 19 November 1925

Place of birth: Wichita, Kansas

Religion: Protestant

Next of kin:

Wife: Mrs. Emma J. McGonagle
22 Bancroft Road
Cohasset, Massachusetts

Children: Cindy Lou McGonagle (daughter)
Sandra Sue McGonagle (daughter)
William L. McGonagle, Jr. (son)
(address same as above)

Parents: Deceased

Sister: Mrs. Ralph Ogden
2209 W. Lincoln
Long Beach, California

Brother: Alvan E. McGonagle
Box 66, Route 4
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Schools: Coachella Valley Union High School, Coachella, California
University of Redlands, Redlands, California
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
BA (History)
University of Idaho BS (Education)

Summary of Service

28 January 1944 - 25 September 1946 Enlisted member, USNR
26 September 1946 - 13 June 1947 Midshipman, USNR
14 June 1947 - Ensign, USN
6 June 1950 - Lieutenant Junior Grade
1 July 1953 - Lieutenant
1 July 1958 - Lieutenant Commander
1 July 1963 - Commander
2 October 1967 - Captain

<u>Duty Station</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
USS FRANK KNOX (DDR-742) Asst Engineering, Damage Control Officer	Sep 1947	Apr 1950
USS PARTRIDGE (AMS-31) Asst Engineering Officer	Apr 1950	June 1950

USS KITE (AMS-22) Engineering Officer	June 1950	Aug 1951
Naval Advanced Base, Bremerhaven, Germany OIC, M-Class Minesweepers	Jan 1952	Jul 1953
Naval Communication Station, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Admin Asst Officer	Aug 1953	Nov 1954
USS ROCHESTER (CA-124) First Lieutenant	Jan 1955	Jan 1957
USS MATACO (ATF-86) Commanding Officer	Feb 1957	Jan 1959
University of Idaho Naval Weapons Instructor	Jan 1959	Jun 1961
USS RECLAIMER (ARS-42) Commanding Officer	Jul 1961	Jul 1963
Staff, Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Current Operations Officer	Oct 1963	Feb 1966
USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) Commanding Officer	Apr 1966	Oct 1967
USS KILAUEA (AE-26) Prospective Commanding Officer	Nov 1967	present

Decorations and Medals

Purple Heart
 Presidential Unit Citation
 awarded the USS KITE (AMS-22)
 American Campaign Medal
 World War II Victory Medal
 Navy Occupation Service Medal with
 "Asia" and "Europe" clasps
 China Service Medal
 National Defense Service Medal
 Korean Service Medal
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Taiwan)
 United Nations Service Medal
 Korean Presidential Unit Citation


C:A:SPED:CSC:sh
10 June 1968

Subj: Travel in connection with attendance at presentation of Medal of Honor to CAPT William L. McGonagle, USN

1781804.1060, OASD 1968
Bureau Control No. 86205
Object Class --
Authorized Accounting Activity 10
Transaction Type 2D

A. YANNELLA
By direction

Copy to:
CER Jenkins, Rm. 1803, ARLEX





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

CIA: RPTB: CIG: sb
10 June 1968

From: Administrative Officer, Navy Department
To: Chief of Naval Personnel
(Mr. Mooney, Room 2805, ANLXK)

Subj: Travel in connection with attendance at presentation of Medal of Honor to CAPT. William L. McGonagle, USN

Ref: (a) BUPERS ltr Pers-G25-MB/ke of 5 Jun 1968
(b) FORNCON of 6 Jun 1968 between Mrs. Cannon (HAWAIIANO) and Mr. Mooney (BUPERS)

1. In accordance with reference (a) and confirming reference (b), the issuance of Government Transportation Requests in connection with subject travel is authorized and approved as follows:

Travelers:

Mrs. Emma S. McGonagle (wife)
Cindy Lou McGonagle (daughter, age 16)
Sandra Sue McGonagle (daughter, age 12)
William L. McGonagle (son, age 10)
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ogden (sister and brother-in-law)
Mr. and Mrs. Alvan E. McGonagle (brother and sister-in-law)
Mr. and Mrs. V. K. McGonagle (brother and sister-in-law)

Route, Mode of travel,
and Estimated Cost:

Commercial Air from Boston, Mass.,
to Washington, D.C., and return;
wife and children

Commercial Air from Long Beach, Calif.,
to Washington, D.C., and return;
sister and brother-in-law

Commercial Air from Stevens Point, Wis.,
to Washington, D.C., and return;
brother and sister-in-law

Commercial Air from Tulsa, Okla.,
to Washington, D.C., and return;
brother and sister-in-law

Estimated cost: \$1,224.25

2. The appropriation citation for the above transportation is as follows:



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370

IN REPLY REFER TO

Pers-G25-MB/js
494467/1100

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: Captain William L. MC GONAGLE, USN
Prospective Commanding Officer
USS KILAUEA (AE 26)
General Dynamics
97 E. Howard Street
Quincy, Massachusetts 02619

Subj: Application for enrollment on Navy Medal of Honor Roll;
forwarding of

Encl: (1) Copy of Title 38, Sec. 560, 561, 562 as amended by
PL 89-311 approved 31 Oct 1965
(2) Application for Enrollment on Medal of Honor Roll
(DD Form 1369) (2)

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded for information.

2. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 89-311 you are entitled to be enrolled on the Medal of Honor Roll and to receive the accompanying pension of \$100 per month, should you elect to receive it. Please complete (in duplicate) enclosure (2), the application form, and return both copies by air mail to the Chief of Naval Personnel (Attn: Pers-G25), indicating as follows:

- (a) Whether or not you desire to be placed on the Navy Medal of Honor Roll, and
- (b) Whether or not you desire to accept the \$100 per month pension. (Election at this time not to receive the pension does not preclude your election at some future date to receive it, should you decide to reverse your decision.)

3. Upon receipt of your completed application (in duplicate), and after verification thereof, your name will be placed on the Medal of Honor Roll. If you elect to receive the pension, the Chief of Naval Personnel will promptly certify your eligibility to the Veterans Administration for payment of \$100 per month.

H. L. JENKINS
By direction

JUN 5 1968

Dear Admiral Duncan:

The President of the United States has awarded the nation's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, to Captain William L. McGonagle, United States Navy.

You are cordially invited to attend the presentation of this decoration at 1130, 11 June 1968 at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,

PAUL R. IGNATIUS
Secretary of the Navy

Vice Admiral Charles K. Duncan, USN
Chief of Naval Personnel
Navy Department
Washington, D. C. 20370

Copy to:
SECNAV

Date Prepared: 5 Jun 1968
Prepared by M. H. BARNES (G-25)
Room 1806, Ext. 42226
Arlington Annex

Pers-G25-MB/kc

JUN 5 1968

*925
JMB*

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: Administrative Officer
Navy Department (Comptroller)
Washington, D. C.

Subj: Presentation of Medal of Honor to Captain William L. MC GONAGLE,
USN

Encl: (1) Standard Form No 1034

1. The President of the United States has awarded the Medal of Honor to Captain William L. McGonagle, United States Navy. The decoration will be presented by the Secretary of the Navy on 11 June 1968 at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C. Captain McGonagle and his family have been invited to Washington. They will be here on 10 and 11 June 1968. The estimated cost of living expenses is \$1500.00. Enclosure (1) is forwarded.

2. The following members of Captain McGonagle's family will attend the ceremony:

Mrs. Emma S. McGonagle (wife)
Cindy Lou McGonagle (daughter)
Sandra Sue McGonagle (daughter)
William L. McGonagle, Jr., (son)
Commercial Air from Boston, Massachusetts to Washington D. C.
and return. Est. cost \$216.00

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ogden (sister and brother-in-law)
Commercial Air from Long Beach, California to Washington D. C.
and return. Est. cost \$548.00

Mr. and Mrs. Alvan E. McGonagle (brother and sister-in-law)
Commercial Air from Stevens Point, Wisconsin to Washington D. C.
and return. Est cost \$260.00

Mr. and Mrs. V. K. McGonagle (brother and sister-in-law)
Commercial Air from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Washington D. C. and
return. Est. cost \$260.00

H. L. JENKINS
By direction

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Resume of recommendation for award of Medal of Honor

Name: William Loren McGonagle

Rating at time of action: Commander, United States Navy

Duty station at time of action: USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5)

Next of kin: Emma J. McGonagle (Wife)
204 Oak Grove Road
Norfolk, Virginia

Cindy Lea McGonagle (daughter)

Sandra Sue McGonagle (daughter)

William Loren McGonagle, Jr., (son)
Address: same as above

Persons who furnished eyewitness statements:

LCDR Peter A. Flynn, MC, USN, 630153/2100
CDR Ralph W. Hopkins, CHC, USN, 509440/4100
CDR Edward S. Kuzawa, CHC, USNR, 588495/4105

Persons who assisted: None indicated. Service for which recognition recommended was his own personal response.

Conditions under which act was performed:

Location: Aboard USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) operating in international waters of the eastern Mediterranean

Date: 8 June 1967

Hostile opposition: Unprovoked attack by foreign aircraft and motor torpedo boats during the Arab-Israeli hostilities

Defenders situation: LIBERTY was assigned to provide communications relay facilities for threatened U. S. posts in the Middle East in the event evacuation of U. S. nationals from threatened areas should be required.

Narrative description of gallant conduct:

On 8 June 1967, at approximately 1205Z, USS LIBERTY was subjected to an unprovoked attack by foreign aircraft and motor torpedo boats. During the course of these attacks, USS LIBERTY suffered major topside damage from strafing aircraft, serious hull damage amidships from a direct torpedo hit, and heavy casualties to the crew.

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In an early phase of the air attacks, Commander McGonagle, Commanding Officer of the USS LIBERTY, while at his battle station on the bridge, was seriously wounded in the right thigh by strafing. In spite of his wounds, Commander McGonagle remained on the bridge, exercising firm command and subordinating his own need for medical treatment in the interest of the safety and survival of his ship and crew. Disregarding his own safety and life, and despite continuous exposure to hostile fire during the course of the attacks, he remained at his battle station to maneuver his ship and direct its defense. He rallied his crew and exercised close supervision of damage control efforts. Inspired by the personal example of Commander McGonagle's valor under direct and concerted attack, the officers and men of USS LIBERTY responded heroically and resourcefully to his commands and to the needs of their ship. They confined the flooding to the spaces directly affected by the torpedo detonation, quickly contained potentially serious fires, cared for the serious casualties among their shipmates and effected emergency repairs to vital structural and equipment damage.

Subsequent to the attacks, although in great pain and weak from loss of blood, Commander McGonagle remained on the bridge throughout the day and ensuing night. The only medical treatment to which he acquiesced while at his battle station was the application of a tourniquet. Despite his condition, he successfully employed the basic elements of professional seamanship, in the absence of such sophisticated aids as radar and gyroscopes, in conning his crippled ship to a rendezvous with friendly forces. At times, he continued to conn his ship while lying on his back with his legs elevated to minimize bleeding. Not until after rendezvous had been effected with a United States destroyer, more than seventeen hours after the first attack, did Commander McGonagle relinquish personal control and permit himself to be removed from the bridge of the ship. Even then, he refused much needed medical treatment to his own wounds and condition until convinced that the seriously wounded and injured among his crew had received medical attention.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO
OP-09B11/cdh
Ser 2089P09B1

2.57

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subject: Proposed Guest List for Medal of Honor Presentation on
11 June 1968

1. It is recommended that the following be invited as guests of the Secretary of the Navy for the Medal of Honor (MOH) presentation to Captain William L. McGonagle, USN, former commanding officer of the USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5).

a. Official Guests

- (1) Secretary of Defense
- (2) Deputy Secretary of Defense
- (3) Under Secretary of the Navy
- (4) The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
- (5) Chief of Staff Army
- (6) Chief of Naval Operations
- (7) Commandant of the Marine Corps
- (8) Chief of Staff Air Force
- (9) Vice Chief of Naval Operations
- (10) Chief of Naval Personnel
- (11) Chief of Legislative Affairs
- (12) Chief of Information
- (13) Chief of Chaplains (RADM Kelley)
- (14) Commandant Naval District Washington
- (15) Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
- (16) Commander Service Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
- (17) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans and Policy)
- (18) Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Communications)
- (19) Director of Politico-Military Policy Division for the Chief of Naval Operations
- (20) Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and Readiness)
- (21) Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Intelligence)

(22) Deputy Under SecNav (Morgan)
b. Congressional Guests

- (1) Senators Richard B. Russell (Georgia) Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
Margaret Chase Smith (Maine) Senior Republican, Senate Armed Services Committee
George Murphy (California)
Thomas Kuchel (California)

- (2) Representatives L. Mendel Rivers (South Carolina), Chairman,
House Armed Services Committee
William H. Bates (Massachusetts) Senior
Republican, House Armed Services Committee
John B. Tunney (California)

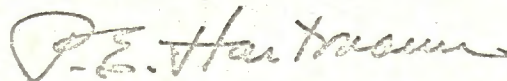
c. Immediate Family

- (1) Mrs. Emma S. McGonagle (Wife)
- (2) Cindy Lou McGonagle (Daughter)
- (3) Sandra Sue McGonagle (Daughter)
- (4) William L. McGonagle (Son)
22 Bancroft Road
Cohasset, Massachusetts
- (5) Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Ogden (Sister)
2209 West Lincoln
Long Beach, California
- (6) Mr. & Mrs. Alvan E. McGonagle (Brother)
Box 66, Route 4
Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- (7) Mr. & Mrs. V. K. McGonagle (Brother)
1524 South 68th Avenue, East
Tulsa, Oklahoma

d. Shipmates

- (1) Mrs. P. M. Armstrong (Wife of LCDR P. M. Armstrong, deceased)
131 Cayuga Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia
- (2) LCDR David E. Lewis, USN
- (3) LCDR Maury H. Bennet, USN
- (4) LT Richard F. Kiefer, USNR
- (5) LTJG David G. Lucas, USNR
- (6) MMC Richard J. Brooks, USN
- (7) HML Thomas L. VanCleave, USN
- (8) YN2 Martin D. Powledge, USN
- (9) YN3 Virgil L. Brownfield, USN
- (10) SFM3 Demoir Duilio, USN

2. Your approval of the above recommendations is requested.



P. E. HARTMANN
Assistant Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Director of Naval Administration

MEDAL OF HONOR PRESENTATION

11 June 1968

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. At 1100 - All personnel and equipment are in position for conducting the ceremony.
2. At 1115 - All invited guests are seated. SECNAV, CNO, Captain McGonagle and family and Admiral Loughlin will assemble at Tingey House. After SECNAV meets family, Commandant, NDW aide escorts family to their seats.
3. At 1128 - The Official Party (SECNAV, CNO, Commandant, NDW, Chief of Chaplains, Captain McGonagle) departs Tingey House and the Bugler sounds ATTENTION.
4. At 1130 - The Official Party enters the park from the quarterdeck and the following sequence takes place:
 - a. SECNAV, CNO, and Admiral Loughlin take position one for SECNAV Honors.
 - b. Captain McGonagle is escorted to the platform.
 - c. Upon completion of Honors, SECNAV, CNO, and Admiral Loughlin proceed to the platform. Official Party mounts platform.
 - d. National Anthem is played.
 - e. Commandant, NDW introduces SECNAV who makes appropriate remarks. CNO reads the citation. The Medal of Honor is handed to SECNAV in its case: SECNAV presents the Medal of Honor to Captain McGonagle.
 - f. Captain McGonagle, SECNAV, and CNO proceed to position one to review the troops.
 - g. SOUND OFF (Navy Band)
 - h. Under the command of the Honor Guard Commander, the troops pass in review and march from the parade ground.
5. In the event of inclement weather the ceremony will be conducted in the Sail Loft in building #112.
6. The Official Party will depart Tingey House at 1125 and proceed to the Sail Loft to arrive at 1130. When the Party enters the Sail Loft the sequence of events outlined under paragraph 4 above will take place except that the pass in review will not be conducted.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO
OP-09B11/jgs
Ser 2088P09B1

3 JUN 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION
THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
COMMANDANT NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON

Subject: Medal of Honor Presentation on 11 June 1968

Ref: (a) Spec. Asst. and Marine Corps Aide to SECNAV Memo of
29 May 1968 (NOTAL)
(b) Spec. Asst. and Marine Corps Aide to SECNAV Memo of
31 May 1968 (NOTAL)

1. The President has approved the award of the Medal of Honor to Captain William L. McGonagle, USN. The Secretary of the Navy will make the presentation at 1130 on Tuesday 11 June 1968 at the Naval Ship Yard. In accordance with past practices for Medal of Honor presentations, assistance is requested as listed below:

a. Chief of Naval Personnel:

(1) Make travel arrangements for those military and civilian personnel residing outside the metropolitan area who will be guests of the Secretary of the Navy in accordance with present policy.

(2) Insure adequate living accommodations are available for the above mentioned individuals for the period 10 and 11 June.

(3) Prepare invitations for the Secretary of the Navy's signature in accordance with the approved guest list.

(4) Assemble and prepare for presentation all appurtenances to the ceremony.

(5) Obtain funding necessary for transportation and living accommodations as listed above.

b. Chief of Information:

(1) Prepare remarks to be delivered by the Secretary of the Navy, in coordination with OP-03 and OP-61. Said remarks are required by 6 June.

(2) Prepare recommended press release in accordance with reference (b).

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Ser 2088P09B1

(3) Prepare press kits.

(4) Assist Naval District Washington as necessary in the civil and media relations during the awardee's stay in the Washington, D.C. area.

(5) Prepare memorandum for the press, to be released by ASD(PA).

c. Office of Legislative Affairs:

(1) Recommend appropriate congressional attendance at the ceremony.

(2) Provide escorts and transportation as appropriate.

(3) Assist in coordinating legislative affairs during this period.

d. Naval District Washington:

(1) Make arrangements for and conduct the ceremony at 1130 on Tuesday 11 June 1968. Plans should include arrangements for both a fair and a foul weather presentation.

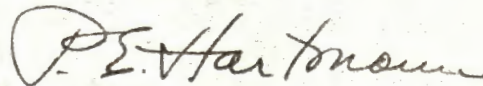
(2) Provide public affairs assistance during the awardee's stay in Washington, D.C.

(3) Provide escort officers, telephone watch, and transportation during this period.

(4) Prepare a schedule of events for the awardee and his immediate family during their stay in Washington, D. C.

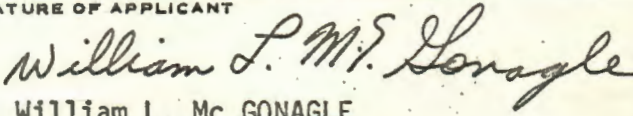
2. The Chief of Naval Operations' project officer for this ceremony is LCDR L. G. HAGEMAN, USN, (phone X-53530 or 53935), room 4D416. In view of the limited time for preparation for this ceremony, it is requested that, where appropriate, information copies be provided directly to the Special Assistant and Marine Corps Aide to the Secretary of the Navy.

Very respectfully,



P. E. HARTMANN
Assistant Vice Chief of Naval Operations
Director of Naval Administration

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APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT ON THE MEDAL OF HONOR ROLL AND FOR THE PENSION AUTHORIZED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED AUGUST 14, 1961		DATE OF APPLICATION <div style="text-align: center;">2 JULY 1968</div>
NAME OF APPLICANT (Last Name - First Name - Middle Initial) Mc GONAGLE, William L.	GRADE, RATE OR RANK Captain	SERVICE NUMBER 494467
PRESENT BRANCH OF SERVICE U. S. NAVY	DATE OF BIRTH 19 NOV 1925	PLACE OF BIRTH Wichita, Kansas
DATE (First entered service) 25 JAN 1944	BRANCH OF SERVICE (First entered) U. S. NAVY	PLACE OF ENTRY (First entered) Los Angeles, California
I DO HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT ON THE MEDAL OF HONOR ROLL.		
(Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I DESIRE TO ACCEPT THE ACCOMPANYING \$100.00. PENSION. <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT DESIRE TO ACCEPT THE ACCOMPANYING \$100.00 PENSION.		
WHILE SERVING AS <u>Commander</u> , <u>U. S. NAVY</u> I WAS AWARDED THE <u>U? S. NAVY</u> <small>(Grade, Rate or Rank) (Branch of Service) (Army, Navy, Air Force)</small>		
MEDAL OF HONOR IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE RENDERED AT <u>USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5)</u> ON <u>8-9 JUNE 1967</u> <small>(Date)</small>		
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS SERVICE IS AS FOLLOWS: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) in the Eastern Mediterranean on 8-9 June 1967. Sailing in international waters, the LIBERTY was attacked without warning by jet fighter aircraft and motor torpedo boats which inflicted many casualties among the crew and caused extreme damage to the ship. Although severely wounded during the first air attack, Captain (then Commander) McGonagle remained at his battle station on the badly damaged beidge and, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his wounds, subordinated his own welfare to the safety and survival of his command. Steadfastly refusing any treatment which would take him away from his post, he calmly continued to exercise firm command of his ship, directed its defense, supervised the control of Flooding and fire, and saw to the care of the casualties. Captain Mc Gonagle's extraordinary valor under these conditions inspired the surviving members of the LIBTY's crew, many of them seriously wounded, to heroic efforts to overcome the battle damage and keep the ship afloat. Subsequent to the attack, although in great pain and weak from the loss of blood, Captain Mc Gonagle remained at his battle station and continued to conn his ship for more than seventeen hours. It was only after rendezvous with a United States destroyer that he relinquished personal control of the LIBERTY and permitted himself to be removed from the bridge. Even then, he refused much needed medical attention until convinced that the seriously wounded among his crew had been treated		
(Check appropriate boxes and enter data as required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CURRENTLY SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH GRADE, RATE OR RANK OF <u>Captain, U. S. NAVY</u> <input type="checkbox"/> DISCHARGED <input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSFERRED TO INACTIVE DUTY ON _____ (Date) WITH GRADE, RATE OR RANK OF _____		
PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES <small>(Street Address, City, Zone and State)</small> USS KILAUEA (AE 26) FPO NEW YORK, NEW YORK 09501	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <div style="text-align: center;">  William L. Mc GONAGLE </div>	

8 JUL 1968

ORIGINAL
7/13/68
JHW

Dear Mr. McGonagle,

Thank you for your letter of 16 June in which you expressed appreciation relative to the arrangements and conduct of the ceremony in presenting the Medal of Honor to your brother, Captain William McGonagle.

It was my pleasure to meet you and ^{MRS. MCGONAGLE} ~~your lovely lady~~. It was also extremely gratifying to Mr. Ignatius, myself, and I'm sure to all Navy personnel to have one of our own receive the nation's highest award.

A copy of your letter will be forwarded to the Commandant, Naval District Washington, who will see that Commander Dawson and Lieutenants Brush and Rehrig are apprised of your appreciation for their assistance.

Sincerely,

T. H. MOORER
Admiral, U. S. Navy

Mr. V. K. McGonagle
1524 S. 68th E Avenue
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74112

ORIG: OP-09B12 x53161
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RS# none June

Schedule of Events
for
~~Congressional~~ Medal of Honor
Awardee
Captain William L. McConagle
United States Navy
and Family



MONDAY, 10 JUNE
through
WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 1968

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
for
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDEE
CAPTAIN WILLIAM L. McGONAGLE
United States Navy
and FAMILY

Monday, 10 June through Wednesday, 12 June 1968



Monday 10 June 1968

- 1228 Arrive Washington National Airport on American Airlines Flight Number 475 from Boston, Massachusetts (meet escort officers and liaison officer).
- 1300 Arrive at quarters in Shoreham Hotel.
- 1400 Depart Shoreham Hotel for tour of:
Hall of Heroes: Pentagon
Arlington National Cemetery: visit gravesites of LCDR Armstrong and LT Pierce—the John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy gravesites—Tomb of The Unknown Soldier and observe the changing of the guard at 1500.
- 1530 Depart Arlington National Cemetery for Mount Vernon via Old Town Alexandria.
- 1600 Arrive Mount Vernon.
- 1700 Depart Mount Vernon for Shoreham Hotel.
- 2000 Dinner on the Terrace at Shoreham Hotel with entire family and shipmates. (Dinner show will be the Doodletown Pipers at 2200.)
- 2300 Secure.

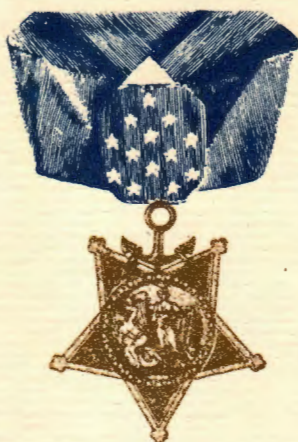
Tuesday 11 June 1968

- 0730 Breakfast in quarters at Shoreham Hotel.
- 0900 Depart Shoreham Hotel for tour of The White House.
- 0930 Arrive at the east gate of The White House.
- 1115 Arrive at Tingey House in the Washington Navy Yard—Home of RADM Elliott Loughlin, USN, Commandant, Naval District Washington. Meet the Hon. Paul R. Ignatius, Secretary of the Navy and Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN, Chief of Naval Operations.
- 1120 Family departs Tingey House for ceremony seating.

- 1128 Official party departs Tingey House.
- 1130 Official party arrives at quarterdeck, Leutze Park. The Secretary of the Navy receives full arrival honors. Official presentation of The Congressional Medal of Honor to Captain William L. McGonagle, USN by The Secretary of the Navy
Pass in Review Ceremony.
Secure from Leutze Park.
- 1230 Arrive in Congressman John V. Tunney's chambers. Lunch in the House Dining Room.
- 1330 Visit gallery of the United States House of Representatives—observe citation from the floor by the Hon. John V. Tunney.
- 1430 Depart Capitol for tour of Lincoln Memorial—Jefferson Memorial—Washington Monument and Smithsonian Institution.
- 1600 Arrive at Shoreham Hotel.
- 1715 Depart Shoreham Hotel.
- 1730 Dinner at Trader Vic's, Statler Hilton Hotel.
- 1930 Arrive at D. C. Stadium for baseball game between the Washington Senators and the Baltimore Orioles. (Armed Forces night is featured.)
- 2300 Secure.

Wednesday 12 June 1968

- 0730 Breakfast in quarters at Shoreham Hotel.
- 0900 Depart Shoreham Hotel for U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
- 1000 Arrive at Naval Academy. Visit the gravesite of LT Toth and tour the Academy.
- 1200 Luncheon at The Harbor House.
- 1330 Depart The Harbor House for Shoreham Hotel via motor tour of Annapolis.
- 1500 Check out and depart Shoreham Hotel for Washington Navy Yard.
- 1530 Farewell call on RADM Loughlin (a press conference, if requested, will be conducted at this time).
- 1630 Visit Naval Historical Display Center (Museum) and Navy Combat Art Gallery.
- 1745 Depart Washington Navy Yard for National Airport.
- 1815 Arrive at American Airlines, National Airport, to board Flight Number 548 for Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1830 Depart Washington, D. C. for further assignments.



Criteria for Award

The Medal of Honor, established by Joint Resolution of Congress 12 July 1862 (amended by Act of 9 July 1918 and Act of 25 July 1963) is awarded in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Armed Forces, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against any enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of service is exacted and each recommendation for award of this decoration is considered on the standard of extraordinary merit. Eligibility is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States in active Federal military service.

Briefing Guide for Escort Officers

concerning

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

for

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR
Awardee

CAPTAIN WILLIAM M. McGONAGLE
United States Navy

Monday 10 June
through
Wednesday 12 June 1968

Project Officer for Chief of Naval Operations
Lieutenant Commander Lyle Hageman OXford 53530

Liaison Officers:

Commander Larry Jenkins
Bureau of Naval Personnel OXford 41770

Commander Jack Dawson OXford 32354
Naval District Washington, D.C. OXford 32678
(Home: 360-4695)

Staff Duty Officer
Naval District Washington, D.C. OXford 32607

Transportation Coordinator
Naval District Washington, D.C.
Operations Office OXford 32607

Armed Forces Police OXford 32393

CARD
003SDEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20350

00 BRIEFED

19 FEB 1968

15 MAR 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Unclassified upon removal of basic correspondence and supplementary summary)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subj: Submission of Medal of Honor for approval

Enclosed are the basic correspondence, proposed citation, certificate, folder, Medal of Honor and container appropriately engraved, supplementary summary of the recommendation, and a forwarding memorandum to the President for your signature for the award of the Medal of Honor for Captain William L. McGONAGLE, USN, for service as Commanding Officer, USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) while operating in the Eastern Mediterranean on 8 June 1967.

I firmly believe the Nation's highest award is appropriate in this case and strongly recommend your approval.

Paul R. Ignatius
PAUL R. IGNATIUS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

002306

Section Cont. No. C-147

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (Unclassified upon removal of supplementary
summary)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Proposed Award of the Medal of Honor

Secretary of the Navy has recommended, and I concur in, award of the Medal of Honor for Captain William Loren McGONAGLE, U. S. Navy, for gallant conduct described in the attached citation and supplementary summary.

The file of correspondence supporting this recommendation is available if you wish to review it.

Att

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Captain William Loren Mc Gonagle, USN, 494467/1100

Date of birth: 19 November 1925

Place of birth: Wichita, Kansas

Religion: Protestant

Next of kin:

Wife: Mrs. Emma J. McGonagle
22 Bancroft Road
Cohasset, Massachusetts

Children: Cindy Lou McGonagle (daughter)
Sandra Sue McGonagle (daughter)
William L. McGonagle, Jr. (son)
(address same as above)

Parents: Deceased

Sister: Mrs. Ralph Ogden
2209 W. Lincoln
Long Beach, California

Brother: Alvan E. McGonagle
Box 66, Route 4
Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Schools: Coachella Valley Union High School, Coachella, California
University of Redlands, Redlands, California
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
BA (History)
University of Idaho BS (Education)

Summary of Service

28 January 1944 - 25 September 1946 Enlisted member, USNR
26 September 1946 - 13 June 1947 Midshipman, USNR
14 June 1947 - Ensign, USN
6 June 1950 - Lieutenant Junior Grade
1 July 1953 - Lieutenant
1 July 1958 - Lieutenant Commander
1 July 1963 - Commander
2 October 1967 - Captain

<u>Duty Station</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
USS FRANK KNOX (DDR-742) Asst Engineering, Damage Control Officer	Sep 1947	Apr 1950
USS PARTRIDGE (AMS-31) Asst Engineering Officer	Apr 1950	June 1950

USS KITE (AMS-22) Engineering Officer	June 1950	Aug 1951
Naval Advanced Base, Bremerhaven, Germany OIC, M-Class Minesweepers	Jan 1952	Jul 1953
Naval Communication Station, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Admin Asst Officer	Aug 1953	Nov 1954
USS ROCHESTER (CA-124) First Lieutenant	Jan 1955	Jan 1957
USS MATACO (ATF-86) Commanding Officer	Feb 1957	Jan 1959
University of Idaho Naval Weapons Instructor	Jan 1959	Jun 1961
USS RECLAIMER (ARS-42) Commanding Officer	Jul 1961	Jul 1963
Staff, Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Current Operations Officer	Oct 1963	Feb 1966
USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) Commanding Officer	Apr 1966	Oct 1967
USS KILAUEA (AE-26) Prospective Commanding Officer	Nov 1967	present

Decorations and Medals

Purple Heart
 Presidential Unit Citation
 awarded the USS KITE (AMS-22)
 American Campaign Medal
 World War II Victory Medal
 Navy Occupation Service Medal with
 "Asia" and "Europe" clasps
 China Service Medal
 National Defense Service Medal
 Korean Service Medal
 Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Taiwan)
 United Nations Service Medal
 Korean Presidential Unit Citation

Aw. Mool
~~TOP SECRET~~
14 Feb 2018

OP-09B12/c1
Rm 4A666 x53161

POINT PAPER

Subj: JCS 2478/74-1 - Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor (MOH) (U)

POSITIONS

Navy: Concur in the paper

Army/MC: Concur in the paper

AF: Attack the paper based on the merits of the case including length of action, damage, forces involved, etc.

POINTS

1. Attack lasted 40-45 minutes.
2. Six sweeps by 8/4 A/C bombing, strafing, rocket, and incendiary attacks. Attacked by 3 MTB torpedo and machine guns.
3. Damage: Torpedo hit fwd starboard side below water line - extensive top side damage - ship control and communications knocked out - loss of steering and electrical power. Sustained 821 other hits from bomb, rocket, and machine gun fire.
4. 204 casualties, 43 dead and 161 wounded - total crew 296.
5. CDR McGONAGLE severely wounded by shrapnel in right leg, subsequently requiring 5 days hospitalization in ship.
6. CDR McGONAGLE commanded ship from attack to rendezvous - 17 hours. In tradition of the Sea. In spite of limited facilities including loss of steering and internal communications, by applying professional knowledge, skill, - jury rigs managed to keep ship afloat. Speed reduced to four knots. Refused all but rudimentary first aid on the bridge until the ship was safe.
7. XO, OPS, and Comm Officers killed.
8. CDR McGONAGLE's actions clearly above and beyond call of duty and resulted in saving his ship.

NOTE: Source - USS LIBERTY, Report, Bd of Inquiry

DISTRIBUTION:

Original and 1 copy (CNO (via OP-06))
2 copies - OP-06
2 copies - OP-60
1 copy - OP-01
1 copy - OP-602C

Page 1 of 1 pages
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TAB(A)





